



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Mountain
Plains
Region

1244 Speer Boulevard
Denver, CO 80204

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Reply to
Attn. of: SP 94-62

Subject: Confidentiality of Free and Reduced Price Information--Non-program Purposes for Release of Information

To: STATE AGENCY DIRECTORS - Colorado ED, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri ED,
(Special Nutrition Programs) Montana OPI, Nebraska ED, North Dakota,
South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming ED

Our memorandum SP 94-C-44, Confidentiality of Free and Reduced Price Information, issued as part of the memorandum consolidation on November 8, 1993, sets out provisions which State Agencies and school food authorities (SFAs) are to follow in order to disclose a child's or a household's free and reduced price information for non-program purposes. This memorandum conveys guidance on the question of the non-program purposes for which a school food authority (SFA) may release such individual or household free and reduced price eligibility information.

The SP 94-C-44 memorandum states, on page 2, that the guidelines for the release of information were developed by the Agency "out of the Agency's interest in helping to make means-tested programs and benefits more accessible to low-income children and their households" **Thus, we would discourage the release of information through multi-use applications or waivers of confidentiality for programs that do not provide households or children with direct tangible benefits.** For example, a study or research program does not directly provide individual households or children with tangible benefits. State and local school officials are in the best position to determine the programs which should be included in multi-use applications or on waivers of confidentiality.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact our office.

Ann C. DeGroat

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Regional Director
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